

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, undated, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue. Washington, D. C. (May 29, 1899. on envelope letter itself undated) My dear Alec:

How I wish you were here, or I with you, I want you and need you — oh my dear I do love you and rest on the knowledge of your love, though you tell it to me so seldom by letter. I do feel so lonely without you, and yet I do so want to accomplish something, I did owe my Father and Mother so much, far, far more than ordinary children owe their parents, and this is the only way in my power to return some of all they did for me.

Elsie went to Philadelphia Friday to remain over Sunday with Edith Hubbard. We all miss her very greatly. Yesterday I asked Gilbert to stay here over Sunday, I thought it would be pleasant for us all, and a thing I would not want to do while Elsie was here. I am inclined to think that Gilbert is making a very strong running with Elsie, what do you want me to do about it? I do not like to interfere without your advice. I am inclined to think very highly of Gilbert's ability and character. What his intentions are, however, I do not know. Of course he could not marry her now, but he may be of opinion that he could. This afternoon we had the map open, and Daisy, he and I were planning our trip to Europe. We thought that it would be nice to go to Scotland and England, thence to Norway and Sweden, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Constantinople, and then home by way of Athens, Cairo, Tunis, Algiers and Gibraltar. But he said that would not get us back before the first of January, and "he could not live all that time in Washington alone." I feel troubled about my little 2 Daisy, she certainly is drooping, and I don't know what is the matter. I have had Dr. Sowers in to see her, but so far he had done no good. He examined her urine the other day, but that he says is all right. She has had a headache now for over a week, and she

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went to bed looking very white with dark rings under her eyes. She is asleep now. It cannot be the heat, for up to today it has been too cool for calico dresses. She has no appetite and "wishes she were dead."

Elsie and I are very well. Mr. McCurdy we see little of, he is busy either in the office or with his machine. He is provoked to find that the stupidity of his model maker is the cause of the apparent failure of his soft rubber carrier. The roll of soft rubber was fastened to raised toothed bands along each side which were designed to carry all the strain and hold the rubber taut. To his surprise the rubber sagged, thus interfering with the free flow of the developer. He thought it must be because the rubber was so heavy and it was not until he had the rubber taken off and the celluloid begun to be put on that he discovered that the model maker instead of fastening the toothed bands on to the clamps at the end had left them free so that all the strain came on the rubber causing it to pull taut and sag over the films so. A soft rubber carrier or roll, B.B. etc., the toothed bands along the edge, C.C. clamps at ends. Of course as the bands were intended to bear all the strain they should have been fastened to the clamps, instead, as it was some trouble to get them on, they were left loose. The celluloid will be ready for trial tomorrow. Meantime Mr. McCurdy is investigating the best and cheapest material for the box. Hard rubber will do, but it is expensive, and he thinks something else might be better. He proposes that his outfit shall include two hard rubber boxes each fitting into the other, and the smaller large enough to put the developing box in. These boxes will hold the right quantity of developer for the box, so that the photographer will have no bother about carrying a lot of glass bottles or borrowing pitchers, etc., when he wants to develop away from home.

Goodnight my darling, I hope you are accomplishing wonders.

Your own, Mabel.